

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
EARLY CHILDHOOD (BIRTH THROUGH GRADE 3)**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. A baccalaureate degree from a college or university having a teacher education program which addresses the competencies required for this certificate and is approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B. Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C. Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D. Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score;
- E. Completion of professional requirements as determined by the recommending college or university, which may exceed these minimum requirements; and
- F. Individuals who completed their teacher education program outside of the United States shall provide documentation of completion of course work in the following:
 - 1. English Composition, two (2) courses, each a minimum of two (2) semester hours;
 - 2. U.S. History, three (3) semester hours; and
 - 3. U.S. Government, three (3) semester hours.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS: A minimum requirement of forty-eight (48) semester hours. The lists following the major areas of professional studies are to be regarded as areas of study and/or content and not necessarily as course titles:

- A. **Foundations of Teaching** (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):
 - 1. Philosophy of Education;
 - 2. Educational Psychology; and
 - 3. *Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted);
- B. **Child Development** (Minimum requirement of nine (9) semester hours):
 - 1. Human Development;
 - 2. *Child Development;
 - 3. Observing Young Children;
 - 4. Infancy; and
 - 5. Middle Childhood;
- C. **Teaching the Young Child** (Minimum requirement of twenty-one (21) semester hours):
 - 1. *Early Childhood Principles;
 - 2. Integrated Curriculum addressing the following areas:
 - a. **Language Arts (including reading, writing, speaking, and listening);
 - b. *Math;
 - c. Health;
 - d. Science;
 - e. Nutrition;
 - f. Social Studies;
 - g. Music;
 - h. Safety;
 - i. Movement;
 - j. Art; and
 - k. Drama;
 - 3. Learning Environment;
 - 4. Diverse Learners;

**Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.*

***Denotes minimum requirement of eight (8) semester hours.*

5. Professionalism in Early Childhood Education;*Assessing Young Children; and
6. Play;

D. Home-School-Community Relations (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):

1. Parents as Teachers;
2. Family Involvement; and
3. Linking Families with Community Resources;

E. Program Management (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):

1. Program Organization and Communication;
2. Collaborative Consultation;
3. Health, Nutrition, and Safety of Young Children;
4. Guidance Strategies; and
5. Classroom Management; and

F. Pre-Student Teaching (Minimum requirement of ninety (90) contact hours. Fifteen (15) contact hours equals one (1) semester hour):

Pre-student teaching must include a minimum of thirty (30) contact hours in each of the three (3) different age levels (infant/toddler, pre-K/Kindergarten, and primary K-3). This pre-student teaching may be included as part of courses identified in areas B-E above or be offered as a separate course(s).

III. STUDENT TEACHING:

The individual participates and applies the competencies in a variety of supervised student teaching experiences. Interactions with children and families from a variety of backgrounds shall be an integral part of the student teaching; and

Student Teaching will require a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours spent with two (2) different age levels (infant/toddler, pre-K/Kindergarten, primary K-3). Each of the two (2) student teaching experiences requires a minimum of five (5) semester hours.

**Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.*

***Denotes minimum requirement of eight (8) semester hours.*

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
TEACHERS WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATES**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. A Missouri Professional Class certificate in early childhood special education;
- B. A minimum of three (3) semester hours of field experience is required and may be integrated into the above to ensure exposure to young children in each of the three (3) different age levels (infant/toddler, pre-K/Kindergarten, primary K-3).

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A. Teaching the Young Child (Minimum requirement of fifteen (15) semester hours):

- 1. *Early Childhood Principles;
- 2. Integrated Curriculum - which addresses the following areas:
 - a. **Language Arts (including reading, writing, speaking, and listening);
 - b. *Math;
 - c. Health;
 - d. Science;
 - e. Nutrition;
 - f. Social Studies;
 - g. Music;
 - h. Safety;
 - i. Movement;
 - j. Art; and
 - k. Drama;
- 3. Learning Environment;
- 4. Diverse Learners;
- 5. Professionalism in Early Childhood Education;
- 6. *Assessing Young Children; and
- 7. Play; and

B. Program Management (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):

- 1. Program Organization and Communication;
- 2. Collaborative Consultation;
- 3. Health, Nutrition, and Safety of Young Children;
- 4. Guidance Strategies; and
- 5. Classroom Management.

**Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.*

***Denotes minimum requirement of eight (8) semester hours.*

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION FOR
TEACHERS WITH ELEMENTARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATES**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. A Missouri Professional Class certificate in elementary education;
- B. A minimum of three (3) semester hours of field experience is required and may be integrated into the above to ensure exposure to young children in each of the three (3) different age levels (infant/toddler, pre-K/Kindergarten, primary K-3).

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

A. Teaching the Young Child (Minimum requirement of fifteen (15) semester hours):

- 1. Integrated Curriculum - which addresses the following areas:
 - a. **Language Arts (including reading, writing, speaking, and listening);
 - b. *Math;
 - c. Health;
 - d. Science;
 - e. Nutrition;
 - f. Social Studies;
 - g. Music;
 - h. Safety;
 - i. Movement;
 - j. Art; and
 - k. Drama;
- 2. Learning Environment;
- 3. Diverse Learners;
- 4. Professionalism in Early Childhood Education;
- 5. *Assessing Young Children; and
- 6. Play;

B. Child Development (Minimum requirement of three (3) semester hours):

- 1. Human Development;
- 2. Infancy;
- 3. *Child Development;
- 4. Middle Childhood; and
- 5. Observing Young Children;

C. Home-School-Community Relations (Minimum requirement of three (3) semester hours):

- 1. Parents as Partners;
- 2. Family Involvement; and
- 3. Linking Families with Community Resources; and

D. Program Management (Minimum requirement of three (3) semester hours):

- 1. Program Organization and Communication;
- 2. Collaborative Consultation;
- 3. Health, Nutrition, and Safety of Young Children;
- 4. Guidance Strategies; and
- 5. Classroom Management.

**Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.*

***Denotes minimum requirement of eight (8) semester hours.*

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
FAMILY RESOURCE CERTIFICATE FOR
TEACHERS WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND/OR
EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATES**

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A.** A Missouri Professional Class certificate in early childhood and/or early childhood special education.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Adult/Family Education** (Minimum requirement of eighteen (18) semester hours):

1. Adult Development;
2. Family Development;
3. Parenting;
4. Adult Education;
5. Family Advocacy;
6. Evaluation of Adult Education or Assessment of Adult Education; and

The equivalent of thirty (30) contact hours in each of three (3) of the five (5) family life stages, as described below (may be integrated into the above):

1. Families without Children;
2. Families with Young Children;
3. Families with Teens;
4. Families with Launched Children;
5. Families with Adult Children; and

- B. Internship** (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours):

The internship will include experiences with at least two (2) of the five (5) family life stages (see above).